

CIA/OCI/BRIEF 122-75  
6 AUGUST 1975

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP85T00608R000300010024-3

SECRET/NFD

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## OUTGOING MESSAGE

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CLASSIFICATION

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MESSAGE HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

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EUROPEAN BRIEF 122-75.4

1. PORTUGAL: VIOLENCE CONTINUED ON TUESDAY IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL AS THE COUNTRY'S TOP MILITARY LEADERS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES, AND SECURITY CHIEF CARVALHO, MET AGAIN IN LISBON TO DISCUSS THE DIVISION OF EXECUTIVE POWER.4

GONCALVES MET BRIEFLY WITH SOME MEMBERS OF HIS FORMER CABINET, APPARENTLY TO GIVE THE APPEARANCE THAT THE COUNTRY'S AFFAIRS ARE BEING ADMINISTERED BY A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT. TOP CIVILIAN PARTY LEADERS SUCH AS SOCIALIST PARTY HEAD MARIO SOARES AND COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER ALVARO CUNHAL WERE EXCLUDED.4

IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL, HUNDREDS OF DEMONSTRATORS SACKED OFFICES AND APARTMENTS OF KNOWN COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS IN FAMILICA0, WHERE TWO DEMONSTRATORS WERE SHOT TO DEATH MONDAY. A CROWD OF SOME 3,000 BURNED COMMUNIST PARTY HEADQUARTERS IN NEARBY SANTO TERSO. SIMILAR ANTI-COMMUNIST VIOLENCE HAS BEEN REPORTED IN SEVERAL OTHER AREAS. A NORTHERN

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POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE PEOPLE ARE MOBILIZING  
IN MANY VILLAGES TO "FINISH OFF THE COMMUNISTS."

THE VISITING MILITARY GOVERNOR OF THE AZORES,  
GENERAL MAGALHAES, WHO HAS STRONG FAMILY TIES IN THE  
NORTH, HAS SAID THAT THERE IS A STRONG SEPARATIST MOVEMENT  
IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL. THE MOVEMENT, ACCORDING TO MAGALHAES,  
MAY SOON BEGIN INCITING THE PEOPLE TO "RISE UP" AGAINST  
THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.Y

A BOMB EXPLODED ON TUESDAY IN LISBON OUTSIDE A  
GOVERNMENT OFFICE. OPERATIVES OF THE RIGHTIST  
PORTUGUESE LIBERATION ARMY OPERATING OUT OF SPAIN  
REPORTEDLY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR SIMILAR INCIDENTS  
SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.4

COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO INFILTRATE AND CONTROL  
KEY MILITARY UNITS HAVE ALSO SUFFERED A REVERSAL.  
LAST WEEK, THEY APPEARED TO HAVE SUCCEEDED IN OUSTING  
A CONSERVATIVE COMMANDER, COLONEL NEVES, AND HIS  
SUPPORTERS FROM THE ANADORA COMMANDO REGIMENT, OUTSIDE

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OF LISBON. AFTER AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION, HOWEVER, NEVES AND HIS MEN WERE REINSTATED AND COURT-MARTIAL PROCEEDINGS WERE ORDERED FOR THE COMMUNIST INSTIGATORS. THE AMADORA DECISION SHOULD NOT ONLY REINFORCE FLAGGING MILITARY DISCIPLINE, BUT ALSO GIVE BADLY NEEDED ENCOURAGEMENT TO MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO OPPOSE COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF THEIR UNITS. {SECRET}4

2. YUGOSLAVIA: THE ARREST OF SEVEN COMINFORMISTS IN CROATIA LAST WEEK WILL FORCE THE YUGOSLAV LEADERSHIP TO TAKE ANOTHER LONG, HARD LOOK AT CROAT PROBLEMS.4

THE SURFACING OF PRO-SOVIET ACTIVITY IN CROATIA WILL HAVE A SOBERING EFFECT, PRIMARILY BECAUSE THE REPUBLIC IS A POTENTIAL HOTBED OF OPPOSITION TO THE SERBS. CROATIAN MORALE HAS NEVER COMPLETELY RECOVERED FROM TITO'S 1971-72 PURGE OF POPULAR LEADERS WHO HAD GONE TOO FAR IN APPEASING NATIONALIST AND SEPARATIST PRESSURES. MOREOVER, THE REPUBLIC HAS A TROUBLED, THOUGH WELL-DEVELOPED, ECONOMY WHICH SOME TOP LEADERS

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SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN  
RESETTLED.4

THE COMMUNISTS HAVE THUS FAR AVOIDED A RUSH TO COLLECTIVIZE THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. THEY PROBABLY RECOGNIZE THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD DISRUPT PRODUCTION EVEN MORE. INSTEAD, COMMUNAL FARMING HAS BEEN INTRODUCED ONLY IN PREVIOUSLY SETTLED COMMUNIST AREAS, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENTS, AND ON NEWLY OPENED FARMLANDS PROVIDED TO URBAN EMIGRANTS.Y

THESE EFFORTS ARE UNLIKELY TO OFFSET EXPECTED PRODUCTION DECLINES. GAINS IN RICE OUTPUT OVER THE LAST DECADE, WHICH AVERAGED ABOUT 5 PERCENT ANNUALLY, RESULTED LARGELY FROM NEW GROWING METHODS, SUCH AS PLANTING HIGH-YIELDING RICE VARIETIES, AND EXTENSIVE USE OF CHEMICALS AND MACHINES. THE CHANGE IN AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES UNDER THE COMMUNISTS WILL UNDERCUT PREVIOUS GAINS AND MAKE LONGER TERM GROWTH MORE DIFFICULT. (CONFIDENTIAL) E-2 IMPDET.H

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 122-75.9

ECUADOR: INFLATION IS THREATENING TO DO SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP THAT THE LEFT-LEANING RODRIGUEZ ADMINISTRATION HAS MAINTAINED WITH THE COUNTRY'S LABOR MOVEMENT OVER THE THREE YEARS OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT.4

ECUADOR'S OIL BOOM, WHICH LASTED FROM LATE 1972 UNTIL EARLY THIS YEAR, FUNNELED PETROLEUM REVENUES--OR AT LEAST THE PROMISE OF SUCH REVENUES--INTO MANY WORKING-CLASS GROUPS. IN ADDITION, EVEN WHEN INFLATION BECAME A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE ECUADOREAN ECONOMY ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO, WORKERS WERE GENERALLY ABLE TO CASH IN ON THE MOMENTUM OF THE BOOM YEARS, WINNING MOST OF THE WAGE INCREASES THEY SOUGHT. NOW, HOWEVER, WITH INFLATION IN THE 25 PERCENT ANNUAL RANGE, REAL WAGES ARE CLEARLY DECLINING AND MANY WORKERS--STILL CLINGING TO THE BOOM MENTALITY--HAVE BEGUN TO BELIEVE THAT OIL IMPROVES THE LOT ONLY OF THE RICH. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE NUMBER OF LABOR DISPUTES HAS INCREASED SHARPLY OVER THE PAST YEAR.4

MINISTER OF WELFARE AND LABOR RAMIRO LARREA, A CIVILIAN WHO HAS HELD THAT POST SINCE FEBRUARY 1974, HAS TRIED VALIANTLY AND IN

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LARGE PART SUCCESSFULLY TO MAINTAIN A REASONABLY GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND LABOR. HE HAS ENCOURAGED THE NEGOTIATION OF NEW LABOR-MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF WHICH HAS NOW REACHED ABOUT 1,500 (COMPARED WITH ONLY TWO IN 1967). HE HAS ALSO PROMPTED THE GOVERNMENT TO CURB THE COUNTRY'S MULTITUDE OF LABOR LAWYERS, WHOSE INFLAMMATORY ACTIVITIES IN THE INTEREST OF SELF-ENRICHMENT HAVE LONG OUTRAGED LABOR UNIONS.4

THERE IS CURRENTLY AN INSIDIOUS EROSION OF GOVERNMENT-LABOR RELATIONS, HOWEVER. THIS IS A GROWING CONCERN TO THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS ENJOYED A LONGER LIFE AND GREATER POPULARITY THAN MOST ECUADOREAN REGIMES IN LARGE PART BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT OF LABOR. AS THAT SUPPORT SLOWLY DECLINES, GOVERNMENT LEADERS ARE ALMOST CERTAIN TO LOSE SOME OF THE CONFIDENCE THAT ONE CHARACTERIZED THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. SUCH A CHANGE COULD IMPAIR THE EFFICIENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT OR, ALTERNATIVELY, NUDGE IT IN THE DIRECTION OF AUTHORITARIANISM. (CONFIDENTIAL) E-2 IMPDET.4

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MIDDLE EAST AFRICA BRIEF 122-75.4

1. ANGOLA: FIGHTING BETWEEN THE POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA AND THE NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA HAS SPREAD SOUTH OF LUANDA. THE FIGHTING APPEARS TO BE ON A RELATIVELY MODEST SCALE, BUT COULD ESCALATE AT ANY TIME. TRADITIONAL TRIBAL TIES IN THE AREA TO A THIRD INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT, THE NATIONAL UNION FOR THE TOTAL INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA, MAY DRAW THE NATIONAL UNION INTO THE CONFLICT.4

MEANWHILE, THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY DELEGATION THAT VISITED LUANDA LAST WEEKEND HAS RETURNED TO LISBON, LEAVING BEHIND CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION BUT NO HARD EVIDENCE OF WHAT POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS IT WILL MAKE TO LISBON. MANY PORTUGUESE MILITARY OFFICIALS IN LISBON AND LUANDA SYMPATHIZE WITH THE POPULAR MOVEMENT AND ARE PROBABLY URGING IN PRIVATE THAT THE TERRITORY BE TURNED OVER TO IT. SUCH A DECISION, HOWEVER, WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO INVITING FULL-SCALE WAR THROUGHOUT ANGOLA.4

THE POPULAR MOVEMENT AND THE NATIONAL FRONT APPEAR TO BE AWAITING NEW POLITICAL SIGNALS FROM LISBON. FOR THE TIME BEING,

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THEY SEEM CONTENT TO STRING OUT THEIR WAR OF ATTRITION AND WAIT FOR LISBON TO MAKE THE NEXT MOVE. [SECRET]4

2. IRAQ-SYRIA: BAGHDAD'S EFFORTS TO UNDERCUT SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD AT HOME AND IN THE ARAB WORLD SHOW NO SIGN OF ABATING. MEANWHILE, PRESS STORIES COMING OUT OF DAMASCUS ARE BEMOANING A SHORTAGE OF WATER IN THE ALEPPO REGION; THESE MAY BE PRECURSORS TO SYRIA REDUCING THE FLOW OF EUPHRATES RIVER WATER TO IRAQ.4

THE LATEST VOLLEY IN THE IRAQI PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST SYRIA OCCURRED ON AUGUST 4 WHEN BAGHDAD REPEATED EARLIER ALLEGATIONS THAT DAMASCUS IS HARASSING PALESTINIAN FEDAYEEN AND CONDUCTING A CAMPAIGN OF "OBNOXIOUS TERRORISM" AGAINST SYRIANS WHO OPPOSE ASAD'S "CAPITULATIONIST POLICIES." AN IRAQI AIDE MEMOIRE OF JULY 24 CHARGED SYRIA WITH 15 LAND AND AIR ENCROACHMENTS SINCE LATE FEBRUARY.4

DAMASCUS IS RESPONDING TO BAGHDAD'S CHARGES IN KIND. IT HAS ALSO PERMITTED JALAL TALABANI'S ANTI-IRAQI KURDISTAN NATIONAL UNION TO BE BASED IN SYRIA, ADDING FUEL TO THE

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DISPUTE. THE TWO SIDES HAVE CLOSED TRADE OFFICES, RECALLED ATTACHES, AND ENDED AIRLINE FLIGHTS BETWEEN BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS.4

IN THE PAST WEEK THE SYRIAN PRESS HAS BEEN GIVING HEAVY COVERAGE TO ALLEGEDLY SERIOUS WATER SHORTAGES IN ALEPPO AND HUNDREDS OF SURROUNDING VILLAGES. THE SYRIANS ARE ATTRIBUTING THE SITUATION TO THEIR DECISION IN EARLY JUNE TO RELEASE MORE EUPHRATES RIVER WATER AS A CONCILIATORY GESTURE TO IRAQ. THERE HAVE BEEN NO EXPLICIT DEMANDS FOR A CUT-BACK SO FAR, BUT THE SYRIANS ARE OBVIOUSLY BUILDING A PUBLIC CASE FOR REDUCING THE FLOW. AT THIS TIME WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE SYRIAN CLAIM ABOUT A WATER SHORTAGE IS VALID OR WHETHER IT IS A PLOY BY DAMASCUS TO MAKE BAGHDAD CURB ITS PROPAGANDA ATTACKS AND ALLEGED INTERFERENCE IN SYRIAN AFFAIRS. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2 IMPDET.4

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